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## Newsnotes

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## Newsnotes

### Books

The most newsworthy recent English-language publication of Vincentian interest is undoubtedly the English translation of the Constitutions and Statutes of the Congregation of the Mission, published at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1989. This edition also contains a new translation of the Common Rules written by Saint Vincent de Paul. This small volume supersedes previously prepared translations which appeared after the Vincentian General Assembly of 1980.

Recent research into the life and spirituality of Saint Vincent de Paul has highlighted the influence of certain spiritual masters from whom the saint drew a great deal of his teaching and practice.<sup>1</sup> One of these was Benet (or Benedict) of Canfield (1562-1619), an English convert to Catholicism who became a Capuchin friar and lived out his life in exile in France. He was the author of the *Rule of Perfection* (Paris: 1608-1610), a book that Saint Vincent relied on greatly. This work is now available in a new critical edition: *Renaissance Dialectic and Renaissance Piety: Benet of Canfield's Rule of Perfection. A Translation and Study*. Kent Emery, Jr. Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies, 50. Binghampton, New York: Center for Medieval and Early Renaissance Studies, 1987, 323pp, \$25.00. In addition to the translation and textual study, this edition also seeks to relate Canfield to other thinkers and spiritual writers of the period. A recent review says that it "provides students and scholars of late sixteenth and early seventeenth-century intellectual and religious history with a finely done translation and a superb introduction to a work of considerable significance to the theology and spirituality of the Catholic Reformation."<sup>2</sup>

Father Frederick Braakhuis, C.M., with the editorial help of Father Hugh O'Donnell, C.M., has published *Praying in Saint Vincent's Spirit*. This privately printed volume contains fifty-one prayers culled from the writings of Saint Vincent de Paul. The author notes "An attempt has been made not only to transcribe them in our own contemporary language, but also to make them suitable for personal prayer." The col-

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<sup>1</sup>See Luigi Mezzadri, C.M., and Luigi Nuovo, C.M. "The Directors of Saint Vincent." Translated by John Carven, C.M., *Vincentian Heritage* 6 (1985, no. 2):173-179.

<sup>2</sup>Richard A. Muller, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 20 no. 1 (Spring 1989):131.

lection is available from The Saint Thomas Seminary Bookstore, 1300 South Steele Street, Denver, Colorado, 80210.

Father Gerard van Winsen, C.M., the archivist and historian of the Dutch province of the Vincentian community, has written a history of Vincentian missions in Ethiopia, *One Hundred and Fifty Years of Priestly Formation by the Lazarists in Ethiopia, 1838-1988*. This is a photocopied edition, published in Panningen, The Netherlands, 1988. In sixty-three carefully researched pages, the author concentrates on only one aspect of mission work, but one which was characteristic of Vincentian efforts from the first days of Saint Justin de Jacobis. He shows the importance of this work but speaks frankly of both its successes and failures. Maps and a few photographs complete the narrative.

Father Luigi Mezzadri, C.M., of the Collegio Alberoni in Piacenza, Italy, has edited *A Lode della Gloria. Il Sacerdozio nell' École Française, XVII-XX secolo*. Series: Complementi alla Storia della Chiesa. Milan: Jaca Books, 1989. Father Mezzadri wrote an introduction and bibliography for this volume of essays on the priesthood in the French school of spirituality, composed by contemporary authors. It is available from via A. Saffi, 19, 20123 Milano, Italy. The price is 22,000 lire, about \$18.00.

Father Mezzari has also written a brief life of Saint Vincent in Italian, *Una vita spesa per gli altri* (Roma: Borla, 1989) 79pp. Translated into French by Father Jean-François Gaziello, C.M., under the title *Petite vie de Vincent de Paul* (Paris: Desclée de Brouwer, 1989), it is now being translated into English by Father Thomas Davitt, C.M., of the Vincentian Irish province. It should serve as a good biography for popular use.

Another brief biography of Saint Vincent is Mariette Stork's *Vincenzo de' Paoli. Il genio della carità*. Assisi: Cittadella, 1987, 233pp, 18,000 lire, or about \$15.00. This is another popular life of the saint, the "genius of charity," emphasizing his charitable activities.

*Renacimiento del Laicado Vicenciano. Actuar juntos en la iglesia y en la sociedad de hoy*. Madrid: La Mialgrosa, 1989, 171pp. This volume contains in seven chapters the papers and discussions of the first national congress on Vincentian laity, held in Spain in 1988. It is further proof of the growth of interest on the part of the laity in the Vincentian tradition for today. It is available from Editorial La Milagrosa, García de Paredes, 45, 28010 Madrid, Spain.

Jaime Corera, C.M. *Vida del Señor Vicente de Paúl*. Salamanca: CEME, 1989, 215 pp. This is another new biography of Saint Vincent in Spanish. The author's previous works on various aspects of the saint's life are brought together here and offer a new and fresh approach. It is

available from Editorial CEME, Apartado 353, Salamanca, Spain.

Another original biography, which escaped notice earlier, is Luis Nos Muro, *San Vicente de Paúl. Persona, obra, y pensamiento*. Madrid: Ediciones Paulinas, 1984. This is an original work by a non-Vincentian author, which studies the main issues, including the controversial ones, in the life and work of Saint Vincent.

Phillipe Guilhaume. *Saint Vincent de Paul. L'ambassadeur des pauvres*. Series: Les Grandes Figures du Midi. Mesnil-sur-l'Estrée?" Editions RMC, 1988. This popular biography, printed under the auspices of Radio Monte Carlo, spends about half of the volume on contemporary social problems and then adds information about Saint Vincent, gathered mostly from his writings.

Antonino Orcajo, C.M. *Viacrucis del Evangelizador de los Pobres*. Madrid: La Milagrosa, 1988. This small volume of sixty-three pages is a series of reflections on the Stations of the Cross, based principally on texts from Saint Vincent and closing with an appropriate prayer from his writings. This material can be used in Spanish-speaking congregations or easily translated and adapted for English-speakers. It is available from Editorial La Milagrosa, García de Paredes, 45, 28010 Madrid, Spain.

A French Vincentian, Yves-Marie Salem-Carrière, has recently published a work, *Saint Vincent de Paul et la Révolution Française* (Saussines: Dominique Martin Morin, 1989), which sets out to expect certain facets of the French Revolution as understood from the perspective of the message of Saint Vincent. The author contrasts the two ideologies: the revolution in its bloodiest aspects and the gospel as lived out in a Christian society. Price: 90 francs, or about \$15.00.

The Southern Province of the American Vincentian Community has published *Texas: The Vincentian Mission, 1838-1848*. It is a summary prepared by Father Ignatius Melito, C.M., of the book *Lone Star Vanguard* by Father Ralph Bayard, C.M. It is the story of the Catholic reoccupation of Texas led by Fathers John Timon, C.M., and John Mary Odin, C.M. in the years following independence. For information on obtaining copies, contact the Vincentian Provincial Offices, P.O. Box 66470, Houston, TX 77266-6470.

### Journals

The March 1990 issue of *Journal of Texas Catholic History and Culture* will carry an article "Jean-Marie Odin, C.M., Missionary Bishop Extraordinaire of Texas" by Doctor Patrick Foley. The author has recently



completed a book-length manuscript in Odin, which is now under consideration by a publisher.

Issue 25 of MEGViS, published by the Middle-European Vincentian Studies Group headquartered in Germany, continues the publication of the papers of the Augsburg study session of March 1989. That session concentrated particularly on Vincentians and the laity, and the papers and discussions represented in this issue speak of the experience of work with and animation of the laity in hospitals. Father Sjef Sarneel, a Vincentian of the Dutch province, also contributed a review of the issues surrounding the hotly discussed matter of the Tunisian captivity of Saint Vincent. The editors also contributed to the discussion by reprinting the pertinent chapters from Miguel de Cervantes's *Don Quixote*, which might possibly have influenced Vincent's famous two letters about his captivity. Chapters 40-41 of the classic novel contain an interpolated story based on Cervantes's own experiences as a prisoner in Algiers. With the publication of two biographies of Saint Vincent by José María Román, *San Vicente de Paúl: I biografía* (Madrid: Biblioteca de Autores Cristianos, 1981), and Luigi Mezzadri, cited previously, the issue continues to be debated.

Issue 26 of the same journal initiates some studies for the 400th anniversary of the birth of Saint Louise de Marillac, principally by presenting a bibliography of German-language writings on the saint. The next issue will have the papers written for the study session for 1990, all on Saint Louise.

In addition to those scholarly studies, the German province publishes an annual *Die Vinzentiner. Bilder und Berichte*. This illustrated report contains news from the wider Vincentian world as well as from the activities of the province. The issue for 1989-90 reviews the inauguration of a spiritual center at the Vinzenzkolleg in Lippstadt (4 October 1989) and the destination of a special Christmas collection for the work of the Daughters of Charity in Cairo. It also contains news of the meeting of Vincentian provincials in Rio de Janeiro and of the still unsolved murder of Panama of Father Nicolás van Kleef, C.M. The editor also published a list of German Vincentian pioneers in the United States and requested any pertinent information that might be available on them.

The monthly publication, *Anales de la Congregación de la Misión y de las Hijas de la Caridad*, continues its long tradition of publishing notes of interest to the numerous Spanish-speaking provinces of the Vincentians and the Daughters of Charity.

Number 7 (July 1989) presents a study by Father Antonino Orcajo, C.M., on the spiritual exercises as practiced by the Vincentian Community. The author treats the subject historically, beginning even before the founding of the Congregation, and concludes with a brief review of the present constitutions and practices.

Number 11 (December 1989) includes an article originally written in Italian by Father Miguel Pérez Flores, C.M., the Vincentian vicar general, on the subject of the presence of Christ in the new Constitutions of the Congregation of the Mission. His conclusions are (1) that Christ is placed first as a model, as Saint Vincent did; (2) that "following Christ evangelizing the poor" places the Congregation in a rich theological, ecclesial, and pastoral tradition; (3) that Christ is the "Rule of the Mission," a statement from Saint Vincent now constitutionally established; (4) that Christ is the model for personal conversion in the Pauline sense; (5) that the presence of the Jesus of history, the son of Mary, does not eliminate the presence of the Christ of faith brought to us by the gospels; (6) that the figure of Christ in the Constitutions is the Christ who travels, preaching and curing, full of compassion, and offering liberation; (7) that Vincentians should complete evangelization with charity and justice, an interesting viewpoint given secular society; (8) that otherwise, no special Christology is evident from the Constitutions.

Issue 1 of volume 98 (1990) is the first published under the editorial leadership of Father José María Román, C.M., of the Madrid province. The issue commemorates the bicentennial of the presence of the Daughters of Charity among the poor of Spain. In addition, the editor begins the publication of a necrology of members of the various Spanish-speaking provinces throughout the world. These notes cover the months of January and February.

The journal of the Vincentian Irish province, *Colloque* (spring 1989, number 19), presents its readers, many of whom are not Irish Vincentians, with studies written by members of the province. These review matters of history, spirituality, and pastoral ministry, all with the typically Vincentian point of uniting theory to practice. This journal is available from The Archivist, Vincentian Community, 4 Cabra Road, Dublin 7, Ireland.

Issue number 30, autumn 1989, contains among other items of mainly Irish interest articles on Saint Vincent and discernment, "Would Saint Vincent favour advertising?"; the holiness of Saint Vincent; Saint Vincent's ideas on spiritual direction; and an apologia for directed

retreats. As usual, all of the authors are or were members of the Irish province.

*Echoes of the Company*, the monthly publication of the Daughters of Charity, translated from the French, regularly publishes studies on Saint Louise de Marillac, Saint Vincent de Paul, and the history of the Daughters of Charity. The September-October issue (no. 9-10, 1989), offers a study by Sister Marie-Geneviève Roux on the outlook of Saint Louise concerning children in distress. Her presentation reviews the history of abandoned children, the organized responses given to this by Saint Vincent and others, and lastly Saint Louise's own outlook, shown in terms of faith, justice, and love.

The Vincentians and Daughters of Charity of Italy publish *Annali CM* which regularly publishes the papers presented at study weeks and other occasions in Italy. Issue 3 of 1989 contains the contributions for the meeting of the Vincentian Volunteers. Over 900 people, mainly from groups with a Vincentian spirit such as the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, took part.

### Other Publications

Sheed and Ward has recently published a video cassette series titled *Saints Alive: Saints for Today on Videocassette*. Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton are included in the series. Each cassette lasts about fifteen minutes. Further information can be obtained from the publisher at P.O. Box 419281, Kansas City, MO 64141.

Two recent publications which, while not dealing specifically with the life of Saint Vincent, treat of topics that closely touch it, are Pierre Pierrard, *Le prêtre français du Concile de Trente à nos jours*. Bibliothèque d'Histoire du Christianisme, no. 8. Paris: Desclée de Brouwer, 1986, and Paul Christophe, *Les pauvres et la pauvreté du XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle à nos jours*. Bibliothèque d'Histoire du Christianisme, no. 12, Paris: Desclée de Brouwer, 1987.

The Vincentian provinces of Spain recently appointed an organizing committee to supervise the publication of a dictionary of Vincentian spirituality (Vincentian in this context refers to Saint Vincent de Paul rather than the Vincentian Community). The committee has drawn up a master plan for the work and is now seeking contributors.

A master plan has also been drawn up for the proposed history of the Congregation of the Mission, to be written and published under the sponsorship of the Secretariat International d'Études Vincentians. It will be in five volumes and is under the immediate editorial supervision

of Fathers José María Román, C.M., and Luigi Mezzadri, C.M.

### **Art Work**

A reproduction of a new icon of Saint Vincent de Paul is now available. The original was commissioned by Father John Rybolt, C.M., and was executed by Sister Marie Paul, O.S.B., of the Benedictines du Calvaire, Jerusalem. For information on this and other art work and cards contact the Center for Vincentian Studies, 1701 West Saint Joseph Road, Perryville, MO 63775.